

Safety and Security

Both safety and security are about a human chain. A chain usually breaks at the **weakest** link. This makes being **safe** and keeping our **equipment secure** is very hard as it is usually about someone other than you who does not take the care expected of each person. One person is usually the weakest link. Their actions affect not only themselves, but the rest of us and also our equipment. Nobody can relax their attention to safety for a second nor can anyone assume that if you do not take care of keys to lockers or close the door to the mapping lab or a vehicle, that things will somehow work out. Realities work against such poor unwarranted assumptions. The times today are such that valuable equipment will be stolen if anyone, including yourself, provided an opportunity by merely being carelessly forgetful. In all probability, if you are forgetful, you will **not** be lucky. Someone will steal the equipment assigned to your care. If you do not pay full attention while driving or while in the field, you will have an accident. You will be held responsible for forgetfulness and accidents. These realities are a matter of our culture. The best defense is for each of us to play our part in making this chain as strong as possible and never serving as the weakest link. We need also to try to influence all those around us to behave in the same responsible manner at all times. When we see risky or thoughtless behavior, speak up. It is not politically incorrect to speak up. In fact it is dangerous to remain quiet.